

First Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2026 • 7:00 p.m.

Prelude *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* (Moore Bells)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment in our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* Hymn #209 [My Song Is Love Unknown](#)

Call to Confession

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

All: In faith and penitence We will confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you.

In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others.

We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.

In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

One: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid." The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table of the Lord

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Let us pray...

Breaking of Bread

Distribution of the Elements (*Please come forward.*)

Prayer

* Hymn #220 [Go to Dark Gethsemane](#)

THE SERVICE OF DARKNESS

The First Lesson – *He Is Arrested*

John 18:1-14

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

The Second Lesson – *He Is Denied*

John 18:15-27

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

Anthem *Cross Cry* ~Gilbert M Martin (Chancel Choir)

The Third Lesson – *He Is Tried* John 18:28-40
Leader: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Lord, have mercy.

The Fourth Lesson – *He Is Condemned* John 19:1-12
Leader: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Lord, have mercy.

Hymn #219 *They Crucified My Lord*

The Fifth Lesson – *He Is Handed Over* John 19:13-16
Leader: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Lord, have mercy.

The Sixth Lesson – *He Is Crucified* John 19:17-25
Leader: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Lord, have mercy.

Hymn #221 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

The Seventh Lesson – *He Dies* John 19:26-29
Leader: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Lord, have mercy.

We Mourn

PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE

* *Those who are able, please stand.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

The term “Maundy” comes from the Latin for “mandate” or “commandment.” According to the author of the gospel of John, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment on the night of the Last Supper, that they love one another as he loved them (John 15:12).

The term “Tenebrae” is taken from the Latin for “darkness” or “shadows” and reminds us of the darkness that covered the earth during Jesus’ crucifixion. Candles are extinguished one at a time until no light remains in the Sanctuary.

Our service, therefore, calls to mind the great love Jesus had for his disciples and has for us. As we read the scriptures, listen to the music, gather at the Lord’s Table and reflect on the significance of this night, may we grasp more fully the sacrifice God made for us, and may we be strengthened to face the agony of Good Friday, even as we look ahead with hope to Easter Sunday.

Offering plates at the doors are for the season’s Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing.